



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20-36 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement, and Applicants retain the right to present claims 20-36 in a divisional application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 18 and 19 have been canceled. New Claims 43-44 have been added. Claims 1-17 and 37-44 remain in this application.

1. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being inherently anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,416,800 to Weber et al.

Applicants traverse the rejection in light of the amended claims.

Weber et al. disclose edible optical fiber. Weber et al. do not disclose an optical fiber comprised of glass.

Support for the claim amendments can be found in the application as filed, for example: page 7 paragraph 0023 ("drawing the glassy optical waveguide fiber preform into the optical waveguide fiber"); page 10 paragraph 0036 ("drawing the glassy optical waveguide fiber preform into the fiber"); page 12 paragraph 0045 ("Overclad couplers of the 1x2 and 2x2 type can be made by inserting two suitably prepared glass optical fibers"); page 15 paragraph 0057 ("drawn into an optical waveguide fiber having a central core portion bounded by a cladding glass ... Figure 2 schematically represents a cylindrical glass body representative of an optical fiber preform or an optical fiber"); and/or page 19 paragraph 0073 ("The glassy fiber preform was subsequently heated and drawn into an optical waveguide fiber.")

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are patentable over Weber et al. and request withdrawal of the rejection.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,900,119 to Hill et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,684 to Jang.

Claims 18-19 have been canceled without prejudice, and Applicants retain the right to present claims 18-19 in a continuation application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated and request removal of the rejection.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of Claims 5, 7, 10-17 and 37-42 is allowable. Applicants further note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated the subject matter of Claims 4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Newly added Claim 43 incorporates the limitations of original Claims 1 and 4, while newly added Claim 44 incorporates the limitations of original Claims 8 and 9.

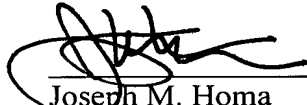
4. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joseph M. Homa at 607-974-9061.

Respectfully submitted,



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